

## **Build-A-Museum:**

### Pre-Visit Activity and Digital Lesson Plan

**Grades:** 6-12 (adaptable for younger)

**Objective:** Use this lesson plan as a pre-visit activity before an outreach program, or as a stand-alone project for students to learn more about Thomas Day State Historic Site and other history museums or sites.

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#### **Students will learn:**

- The importance of historical preservation and museums as educational and community spaces
- The history of Thomas Day and his importance as a free person of color in Virginia and North Carolina

#### **You will need:**

- Pre-Visit presentation slides
  - Build-A-Museum Worksheet (including sample and Tips & Hints page)
  - Optional: Reading Excerpt “*Brief Biography of Thomas Day*”
  - Optional: Access to computers for independent student research
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#### **Introduction:**

- Ask students what they think of when they hear the words “Museum” and “Historic Site”
- Record their answers. Then ask if they have ever heard of Thomas Day (most students haven’t!)

- **Grades 8-12:** Have students read the “*Brief Biography of Thomas Day*”
  - Use the presentation slides to the students. Use the discussion questions on the slides to guide conversation in groups or pairs.
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#### **Task:**

- **Part One:** In groups or pairs, have students answer the discussion questions. Have them use the worksheet to take notes on their answers, then discuss with the class.
- **Part Two:** Using the next worksheet page, have students pick a historical figure and design a museum around them. Note: Students may use a historical figure they have already learned about, or they can conduct research on their own about a new figure. Alternatively, they can use themselves as a subject (this is a good option if you are short on time).
  - Optional extension (grades 6-12): Have the students work to create a presentation (powerpoint, poster, etc.) and present on the topic to the class.
  - Optional extension: Have students explore other Sites and Museums websites to get ideas (dn-cr.nc.gov)

**NC Standard Course of Study:** I.1.3-9,  
7.B.1.2, 7.B.1.3, 7.H.1.2, 7.H.1.5, 8.B.1,  
8.C&G.1.2, 8.C&G.1.3, 8.C&G.1.5, 8.E.1.3,  
8.H.1.3, 8.H.1.4, 8.H.2.2, 8.H.2.3,  
AH1.H.1.2-4, AH1.H.3.3-4

**VA Standards of Learning:** CE.6.d,  
WG.3.b, WG.3.b, WG.14, VUS.3, VUS.7.h,  
VUS.8